

BOOKS FOR THE COLLEGE BOUND

FICTION

Anderson, Sherwood. *Winesburg, Ohio*, 1919. A collection of short stories lays bare the life of a small town in the Midwest. 247 p. **A5492WI**

Austen, Jane. *Pride and Prejudice*, 1813. “It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife.” This witty comedy of manners explores the intricacies of courtship in 18th-century England. 281 p. **A933PR**

Bellamy, Edward. *Looking Backward: 2000-1887*, 1887. Written in 1887 about a young man who travels in time to a utopian year 2000, where economic security and a healthy moral environment have reduced crime. 470 p. **B4357L**

Bradbury, Ray. *Fahrenheit 451*, 1951. Enter a futuristic world where reading is prohibited because it stimulates thought, and firemen “protect” society by burning books. 179 p. **B7982F**

Brontë, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre*, 1847. Jane Eyre, a penniless orphan, is engaged as governess for the mysterious Mr. Rochester. 248 p. **B8695J**

Brontë, Emily. *Wuthering Heights*, 1847. One of the first gothic novels. Passion, hate, and revenge abound in the turbulent story of Heathcliff and Catherine’s obsessive love. 390 p. **B8697W**

Carroll, Lewis. *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*, 1865. Alice falls down a rabbit-hole and enters the whimsical, nonsensical world of the Queen of Hearts, Cheshire cat, and Mad Hatter. 143 p. **C3196AL**

Cather, Willa. *My Ántonia*, 1918. Soulful portrait of Ántonia Shimerda, a Czech immigrant who faces heartbreak, disillusionment, and social ostracism in frontier Nebraska. 238 p. **C363MY**

Chopin, Kate. *The Awakening*, 1899. The story of a New Orleans woman who abandons her husband and children to search for love and self-understanding. 116 p. **C549AWA**

Conrad, Joseph. *Heart of Darkness*, 1902. “The horror! The horror!” A harrowing expedition into the heart of the Belgian Congo becomes a journey into human depravity. (This novella was the literary inspiration for Francis Ford Coppola’s movie, “Apocalypse Now.”) 158 p. **C7543HE**

Crane, Stephen. *The Red Badge of Courage*, 1895. This imaginative account of a young soldier's quest for a "badge of courage" during a bloody Civil War battle shattered America's romantic vision of war. 247 p. **C8917RE**

Defoe, Daniel. *Robinson Crusoe*, 1719. Robinson Crusoe, shipwrecked and marooned on a desert island, must rely on his wits to survive in this exotic tale of travel and adventure. 316 p. **D314RO**

Dickens, Charles. *A Tale of Two Cities*, 1859. The release of a prisoner from the Bastille during the French Revolution leads to the execution of an innocent Englishman. 272 p. **D548TA**

Ellison, Ralph. *Invisible Man*, 1952. An anonymous African-American describes how he became an "invisible man." 572 p. **E476I**

Faulkner, William. *As I Lay Dying*, 1930. Addie Bundren's funeral procession becomes a grotesquely comic odyssey across Yoknapatawpha County. 267 p. **F263AS**

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby*, 1925. Jay Gatsby searches for the American Dream amidst the glamour and decadence of the Jazz Age. 182 p. **F553G**

Gaines, Ernest J. *A Lesson Before Dying*, 1993. "I would just as soon put a hog in the electric chair as this." In a small Cajun community in the late 1940's, a retarded young black man is wrongly convicted of murder and condemned to death. 256 p. **G1423LE**

García Márquez, Gabriel. *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, 1967. Tragic yet comic tale of the birth and death of the mythical town of Macondo, told through the history of the Buendía family. 458 p. **G216ON**

Golding, William. *Lord of the Flies*, 1954. Parable about the inherent evil in human nature. A group of English schoolboys, marooned on a Pacific island, evolve into murderous savages. 190 p. **G619L**

Hawthorne, Nathaniel. *House of the Seven Gables*, 18. "God will give him blood to drink!" said Matthew Maule as they hanged him for witchcraft. Based on a legendary curse placed on Hawthorne's own family by a woman condemned to death during the Salem witchcraft trials. 281 p. **H399HO**

Heller, Joseph. *Catch-22*, 1961. A masterpiece of black humor which satirizes the murderous insanity of war. Bombardier John Yossarian is caught-up in absurd schemes to outwit the army. 443 p. **H477C**

Hemingway, Ernest. *The Old Man and the Sea*, 1952. Exciting but tragic tale of an old Cuban fisherman's relentless battle with a giant marlin far out in the Gulf Stream. 127 p. **H4883O**

Hurston, Zora Neale. *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, 1937. Independent and articulate, Janie Crawford is determined to be her own person, no mean feat for a black woman in the 1930's. 219 p. **H9668TH**

Huxley, Aldous. *Brave New World*, 1932. In this brave, new world, children are born in test tubes and processed by an assembly line. 177 p. **H986B**

James, Henry. *The Turn of the Screw and Other Stories*, 1898. “The Turn of the Screw” is a horrifying and mystifying ghost story, blending the supernatural with psychological terror. 102 p. **J273TU**

Joyce, James. *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, 1916. Masterful *Bildungsroman* that traces an aspiring young writer’s rejection of traditional Irish-Catholic culture. 257 p. **J89P**

Kafka, Franz. *The Metamorphosis*, 1915. “As Gregor Samsa awoke one morning from a troubled dream, he found himself changed in his bed to a monstrous insect.” A horror story laced with mordant humor. 98 p. **K11M**

Keneally, Thomas. *Schindler’s List*, 1982. Based on the true story of Oskar Schindler, a German industrialist and war profiteer who gambled his life and his fortune to save 1,300 Jews from the gas chambers. **K333SC**

Kesey, Ken. *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*, 1962. Fast-talking con Randle Patrick McMurphy commits himself to a mental institution to avoid work, and matches wits with Nurse Ratched. 277 p. **K42O**

Lee, Harper. *To Kill a Mockingbird*, 1960. “Shoot all the bluejays you want, if you can hit ’em, but remember it’s a sin to kill a mockingbird.” When Atticus Finch defends a black man accused of raping a white woman, he and his children face bigotry and hatred. 296 p. **L4784T**

London, Jack. *Call of the Wild*, 1903. Buck, a pampered dog living on a California ranch, is kidnapped and taken to the Yukon, where he becomes a sled dog and reverts to the most basic animal savagery. 284 p. **L847C**

Melville, Herman. *Moby Dick, or, the Whale*, 1851. “Call me Ishmael.” Captain Ahab leads the crew of the Pequod in fanatical pursuit of the fierce white whale, Moby Dick. 594 p. **M531MO**

Orwell, George. *Animal Farm*, 1945. In this scathing satire of communism, power-hungry pigs forge a ruthless dictatorship, where “All animals are equal, but some are more equal than others.” 128 p. **O79A**

Remarque, Erich Maria. *All Quiet on the Western Front*, 1929. A graphic, semiautobiographical account of World War I which exudes the horror of war and the stink of death. 248 p. **R384A**

Salinger, J. D. *The Catcher in the Rye*, 1951. After Holden Caulfield is expelled from his third private school, this later-day Huck Finn runs away to New York City. 277 p. **S1654C**

Shelley, Mary Wollstonecraft. *Frankenstein: The Modern Prometheus*, 1818. The ultimate Science Fair project? Obsessed with the secret of creating life, Victor Frankenstein brings to life an eight-foot Monster he assembles from cadavers. 254 p. **S5455FR**

Solzhenitsyn, Aleksandr Isaevich. *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, 1962. Autobiographical memoir which depicts the brutality of Soviet forced labor camps. 203 p. **S692O**

Steinbeck, John. *The Grapes of Wrath*, 1939. This controversial masterpiece traces the Joad family's migration from the Oklahoma Dust Bowl to California, and their subsequent hardships as migrant farm workers. 578 p. **S81973GR**

Stevenson, Robert Louis. *The Strange Case of Doctor Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, 1886. Dr. Henry Jekyll experiments with a drug which unleashes his alternate personality, the evil Mr. Hyde. 158 p. **S848S**

Stoker, Bram. *Dracula*, 1897. "There was one great tomb more lordly than all the rest; huge it was, and nobly proportioned. On it was but one word, **DRACULA**." Sinister blend of Transylvanian legend, personal experience, and imagination, with a pinch of Vlad the Impaler. 389 p. **S757D**

Stowe, Harriet Beecher. *Uncle Tom's Cabin or, Life Among the Lowly*, 1852. Controversial abolitionist novel which aroused bitter feelings on both sides of the Mason-Dixon Line. When President Abraham Lincoln met Stowe during the Civil War, rumor has it he greeted her by saying, "So this is the little lady who made this big war." 552 p. **S892UN**

Swift, Jonathan. *Gulliver's Travels*, 1726. Timeless masterpiece of political satire which combines mind-bending adventure with devastating wit. 291 p. **S9775G**

Twain, Mark. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, 1886. Huck, the illiterate son of the town drunk, is the hero of this oft-censored satire of racism, religion, and hypocrisy. Twain's controversial use of dialect paints a vivid picture of life on the Mississippi. 312 p. **T9694AH**

Vonnegut, Kurt. *Slaughterhouse-Five; or the Children's Crusade*, 1969. This Absurdist anti-war novel is based on Vonnegut's experiences as a POW. Billy Pilgrim survives the hellish fire-bombing of Dresden, then becomes "unstuck in time" after aliens from the planet Tralfamadore abduct him. 186 p. **V947SLA**

Walker, Alice. *The Color Purple*, 1982. Epistolary novel about Celie, a young black woman who overcomes poverty, racism, and sexism to grow into a strong, independent woman. 290 p. **W177CO**

Warren, Robert Penn. *All the King's Men*, 1946. Political scandal, blackmail, and murder, with a Southern twist. Based indirectly on the life of Huey Long, the notorious Louisiana governor and senator. 438 p. **W292AL**

Wells, H.G. *The Time Machine*, 1895. A scientist invents a machine that transports him into the future. 104 p. **W454TI**

NON-FICTION

Ambrose, Stephen E. *D-Day, June 6, 1944: The Climactic Battle of World War II*, 1994. Eyewitness testimony from both sides of the battlefield gives a soldier's-eye view of D-Day. 665 p. **940.54214 A496D**

Ambrose, Stephen E. *Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson, and the Opening of the American West*, 1996. This lively chronicle of the Lewis and Clark expedition is filled with adventure, suspense, and personal tragedy. 511 p. **917.8042 A496U**

Angelou, Maya. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, 1969. The noted black writer and civil rights activist's account of her childhood and adolescence offers a message of survival and hope. **92 A584I;**

Bernstein, Carl, and Bob Woodward. *All the President's Men*, 1974. Two *Washington Post* reporters describe how the Watergate scandal led to Richard Nixon's great fall. 347 p. **364.1323 B531A**

Brown, Dee. *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West*, 1971. How the West was "won," as seen through Native American eyes. 487 p. **970.1 B877B**

Delaney, Sarah, and A. Elizabeth Delaney, with Amy Hill Hearth. *Having Our Say: The Delaney Sisters' First 100 Years*, 1993. This feisty memoir offers humorous and poignant glimpses of the Harlem Renaissance, Jim Crow, and the Civil Rights Movement. 210 p. **929.2 D337H**

Douglass, Frederick. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass: An American Slave*, 1845. Frederick Douglass describes the brutal life of a slave in this eloquent indictment of slavery. 126 p. **92 D7375NA**

DuBois, W. E. B. *The Souls of Black Folk: Essays and Sketches*, 1903. Fourteen essays about race relations in America, written by a man at the vanguard of the Civil Rights movement. DuBois wrote, prophetically, that "the problem of the twentieth-century is the problem of the color line." 209 p. **973.0496 D816S**

Frank, Anne. *The Diary of a Young Girl*, 1952. Powerful Holocaust testimony of a Jewish girl who hides with her family from the Nazis. 285 p. **940.531 F828D**

Franklin, Benjamin. *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*, 1791. Considered one of the most interesting autobiographies in English. 409 p. **92 F831AM**

Hawking, Stephen. *A Brief History of Time: From the Big Bang to Black Holes*, 1988. British physicist Stephen Hawking unravels the mysteries of astrophysics, time, and the universe. 198 p. **523.1 H392BR**

Hersey, John. *Hiroshima*, 1946. Describes the explosion of the atom bomb over Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, and its impact on the lives of six "survivors." 317 p. **940.5425 H572H**

King, Martin Luther, Jr. *I Have a Dream*, 1963. On August 28, 1963, the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his most memorable and inspiring speech. 33 p. **323.1196 K53IH**

Kovic, Ron. *Born on the Fourth of July*, 1976. Searing and graphic autobiography of the anti-war activist whose visions of heroism and patriotism were shattered in Vietnam. 208 p. **959.70438 K88B**

Machiavelli, Niccolò. *The Prince*. The Bible of *realpolitik*. An intriguing study of the art of practical politics, this is the book that gives meaning to the term, "Machiavellian." 153 p. **320 M149P**

Poe, Edgar Allan. *Great Tales and Poems of Edgar Allen Poe*, 1966. Grotesque favorites from the master of the macabre include "The Masque of the Red Death"; "The Pit and the Pendulum"; and "The Raven." 819 p. **818.3 P743GR**

Thoreau, Henry David. *Walden, or, Life in the Woods*, 1854. "Simplify, simplify." Thoreau's quest to "turn back the clock" and establish an intimate, spiritual relationship with nature. 297 p. **818.3 T488W**

United States. *The Declaration of Independence, 1776*. "When in the Course of human events" America's announcement to the world that it was no longer a colony of Great Britain. **973.313 U853**

Wiesel, Elie. *Night*, 1958. Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel's wrenching attempt to find meaning in the horror of the Holocaust. Based on the author's experiences in the Nazi death camps. 109 p. **940.5318 W651NI**

Williams, Juan. *Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years, 1954-1965*, 1987. Compelling oral history of the early years of the Civil Rights movement, and a tribute to the men and women, both black and white, who kept their eyes on the prize of freedom. 300 p. **323.4 W724E**

Wolfe, Tom. *The Right Stuff*, 1979. Before John Glenn was the oldest man in space, he was the first American to orbit the earth. Read about Glenn, "spam in a can," and the early years of the American space program in this stellar piece of "New Journalism." 436 p. **629.109 W855R**

Wright, Richard. *Black Boy: A Record of Childhood and Youth*, 1945. Subtly crafted narrative of the author's harrowing childhood in the Jim Crow South. 285 p. **92 W9528BL**

X, Malcolm, with Alex Haley. *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, 1964. Malcolm X's transformation from preacher's son and petty criminal to devout Muslim and charismatic leader of black nationalism. 523 p. **92 X111A**

DRAMA

Albee, Edward. *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?: A Play*, 1962. A dazzling work of gut-wrenching dark comedy, noted for its razor-honed dialogue. 242 p. **812.54 A328W**

Beckett, Samuel. *Waiting for Godot: Tragicomedy in 2 Acts*, 1952. Puzzling landmark of modern drama and the Theater of the Absurd. To some, it's one of the most profound and amusing plays ever written; to others, it's a pretentious bore. 60 p. **822.912 B396W**

Brecht, Bertolt. *Mother Courage and Her Children*, 1991. A product of the Nazi era, Mother Courage is a feminine "Everyman" in a play on the futility of war. 126 p. **832.912 B829MO**

Christie, Agatha. *The Mousetrap, & Other Plays*, 1978. Eight ingenious and chilling whodunits, including "The Mousetrap"; "Witness for the Prosecution"; and "Ten Little Indians." 659 p. **822.912 C555M**

Eliot, T. S. *Murder in the Cathedral*, 1935. Compelling verse play which dramatizes the martyrdom and assassination of Archbishop Thomas Becket of Canterbury. 88 p. **822.912 E42M**

Ibsen, Henrik. *A Doll's House*, 1879. Psychological tension energizes this revolutionary portrait of a woman who leaves her husband when she realizes that he is not worth her love. 100 p. **839.822 I14D**

Miller, Arthur. *Death of a Salesman*, 1949. Willy Loman ponders the wreckage of his life and the emptiness of the American Dream. Is Willy a tragic hero, or a pathetic dreamer? 139 p. **812.52 M647DE**

O'Neill, Eugene. *Long Day's Journey into Night*, 1956. The greatest American play of the 20th-century? A day in the life of a dysfunctional family. (This autobiographical drama was so painful and personal that O'Neill wouldn't allow it to be published until after his death.) 176 p. **812.52 O58L**

Shakespeare, William. Read a comedy, history, and tragedy written by the Bard of Avon. Favorites include *The Taming of the Shrew* (the Battle of the Sexes, 16th-century style); *Richard III* (a divinely evil king who is able to "smile, and murder whiles I smile"); and *Hamlet* ("sweet prince" or pragmatic villain?)
822.33

Shaw, George Bernard. *Pygmalion*, 1913. Eliza Doolittle, a guttersnipe Cockney flower girl, is the star of Shaw's exquisite spin on Cinderella. 148 p. **822.91 S534PP**

Wilde, Oscar. *The Importance of Being Earnest: A Trivial Comedy for Serious People*, 1895. Wilde combines high comedy with farce to satirize the shallowness of Victorian society. 158 p. **822.8 W672I**

Wilder, Thornton. *Our Town*, 1938. A slice of Americana: Daily Life, Love and Marriage, and Death in Grover's Corners, New Hampshire. (Everyone's a critic: this daring Pulitzer Prize-winner closed after one week in Boston because of bad reviews.) 103 p. **812.52 W673T**

Williams, Tennessee. *The Glass Menagerie*, 1945. Semiautobiographical play about a family whose lives form a triangle of quiet desperation. 142 p. **812.54 W727G**

Williams, Tennessee. *A Streetcar Named Desire*, 1947. Blanche Dubois' fantasies of refinement and grandeur are brutally destroyed by her brother-in-law. 144 p. **812.54 W727S**

Wilson, August. *The Piano Lesson*, 1990. Pulitzer Prize-winning story of a black American family's struggle to remember and yet overcome the brutal legacy of slavery. 108 p. **812.54 W746P**

POETRY

Many professors recommend browsing the collected works of the following poets to familiarize yourself with their styles:

William Blake	NON-FIC 821.7 B636	Langston Hughes	NON-FIC 811.54 H893
Geoffrey Chaucer	NON-FIC 821.1 C496	Sylvia Plath	NON-FIC 811.54 P716
E. E. Cummings	NON-FIC 811.52 C971	Ezra Pound	NON-FIC 811.52 P876
Emily Dickinson	NON-FIC 811.4 D553	William Shakespeare	NON-FIC 822.33 Y718
T. S. Eliot	NON-FIC 811.54 E42	Walt Whitman	NON-FIC 811.3 W615
Robert Frost	NON-FIC 811.52 F939	William Wordsworth	NON-FIC 821.7 W926

Allison, Alexander W., et al, ed. *The Norton Anthology of Poetry*, 1983. Diverse sampling of the best poetry written in the English language, from Geoffrey Chaucer to Seamus Heaney. 896 p. **808.81 E13N**

Angelou, Maya. *Complete Collected Poems of Maya Angelou*, 1994. Poems which voice Angelou's belief that, "you may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated." 273 p. **811.54 A584**

Beowulf, 700 A. D. The oldest epic poem in the English language features deep-sea monsters and a fire-breathing dragon. Based on Norse legends and 6th-century history. 121 p. **829.3 B481**

Coleridge, Samuel Taylor. *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, 1798. Chilling ballad fraught with superstition and mystery. The ancient mariner, a "grey-bearded loon," tells of a cursed voyage to Antarctic seas. 48 p. **821.7 C693R**

Dante Alighieri. *The Divine Comedy*, 1321. Brilliantly imagined pilgrimage through Hell, Purgatory, and Paradise. 798 p. **851.1 D192D**

Homer. *The Odyssey*. Wily Odysseus encounters a fantastic array of monsters and heroes during his epic journey homeward from the Trojan War. 509 p. **883.01 H766O**

Shakespeare, William. *The Sonnets*, 1998. Serious and not-so-serious meditations on love and melancholy, life and death. Few poems in English literature match the eloquence of Shakespeare's sonnets. 154 p. **822.33 Y718**